

Roadless and Wilderness Lands within the Greater Yellowstone Area

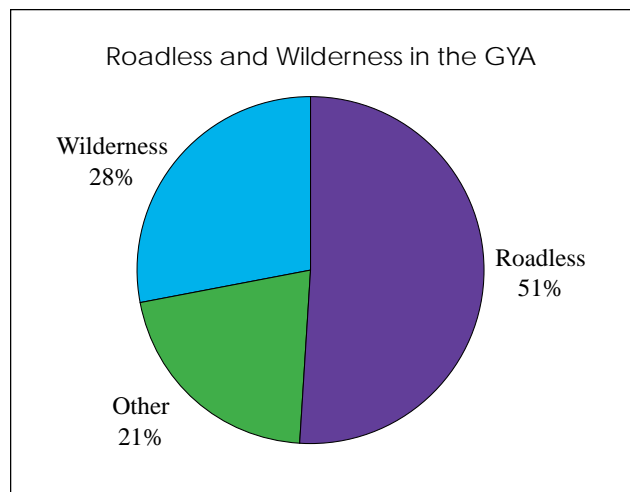
The Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) is renowned for its scenic beauty, recreation opportunities, wildlife, clean water, and wild, natural settings. The undeveloped nature of this area is reflected by the fact that nearly four out of every five acres of federal land is either designated as wilderness or is essentially free of development and roads.

More than 95 percent of Yellowstone National Park's 2.2 million acres is considered backcountry and managed as wilderness. Although Congress has not acted on wilderness recommendations, the 2,033,000 acres recommended for wilderness is managed so as not to preclude wilderness designation. In Grand Teton National Park, 116,000 acres is recommended for wilderness designation.

Within Red Rock Lakes Wildlife Refuge 35,000 acres is designated wilderness, one of the few marshland wildernesses in the country.

On national forest system lands, 11 areas totaling nearly 4 million acres are designated as wilderness. Wilderness virtually surrounds the north, east, and south boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. The largest area is the 943,626-acre Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness located on the Custer, Gallatin, and Shoshone National Forests.

Nearly 4.5 million acres of national forest lands within the GYA are considered roadless. In 1972 the Forest Service began identifying roadless areas for wilderness consideration through the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE I). In 1979, the agency completed RARE II, a more extensive national inventory of roadless areas. Most national forests and grasslands employed RARE II data to develop inventories of roadless areas. Subsequent forest plan revisions further evaluated inventoried roadless areas.



Future management of these lands will be guided by the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, approved in January of 2001. The rule:

- Prohibits new road construction and reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands, with exceptions for health and safety, environmental clean up, reserved or outstanding rights, and valid mineral leases.
- Prohibits cutting, sale, and removal of timber in inventoried roadless areas, except for removal of generally small diameter trees which maintains or improves roadless characteristics, for habitat improvement for threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species, to maintain or restore ecosystem composition and structure, and for personal or administrative use.

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced, on May 4, 2001, that amendments to the approved rule will be proposed in June 2001. The amendments will address more reliable information and mapping; additional local involvement; protecting forests from severe wildfire, insect and disease activity; protecting communities, homes, and property; and protecting access to property.

For additional information on the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, go to <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>

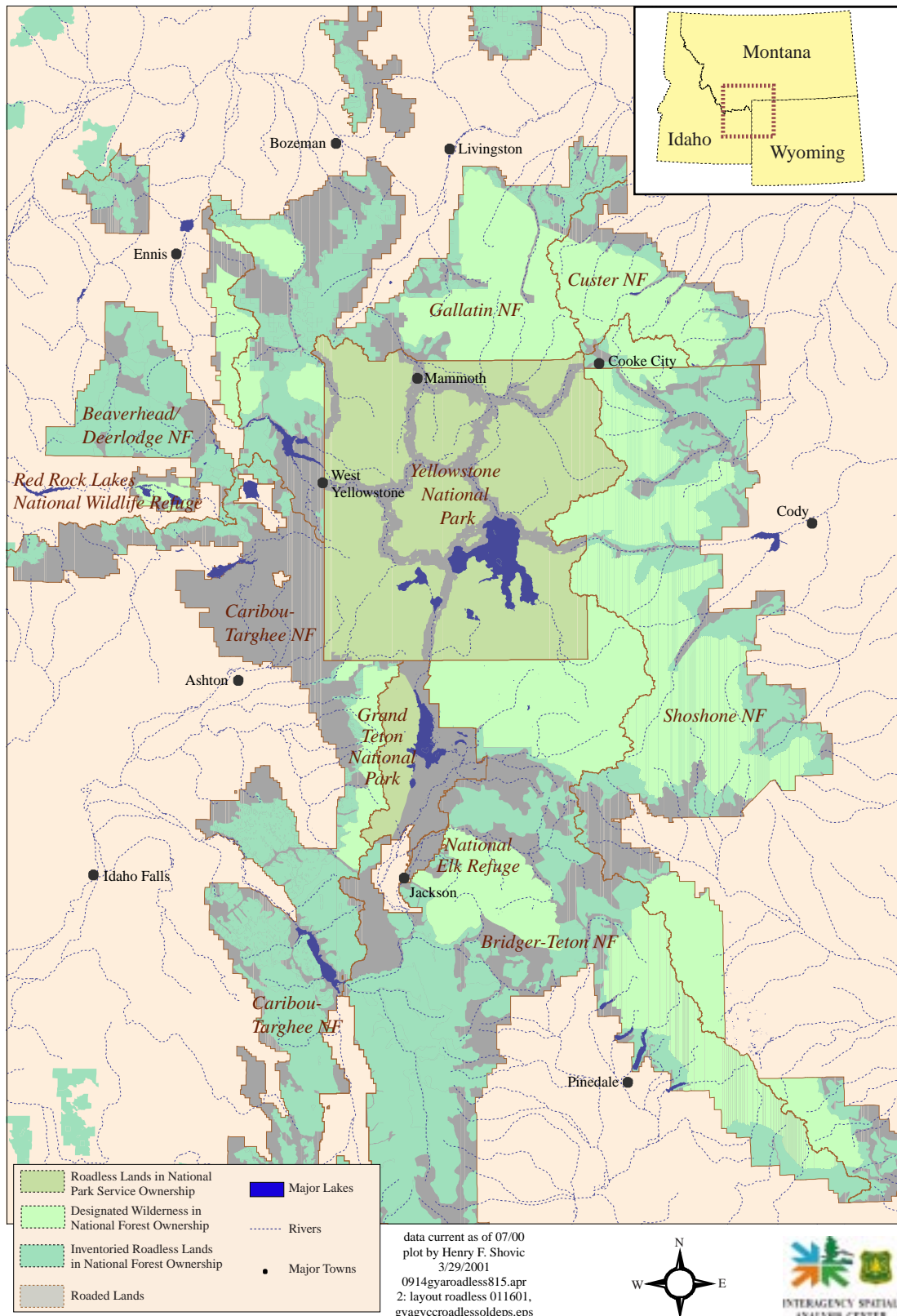


Mountain goat on the Custer National Forest.

GYCC Activities

Over the years, GYCC units have coordinated on wilderness and backcountry outfitter guide management, weed-free stock feed regulations, backcountry and wilderness recreation use regulations, wildland fire management, and winter recreation use. Wilderness and backcountry projects recently funded by GYCC include development of reclamation plans for salt sites in the Teton Wilderness, Bridger-Teton National Forest, a study of backcountry recreation use and grizzly bears in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, and noxious weed mapping and control in the Palisades Wilderness Study Area, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, and in the Absaroka Wilderness, Shoshone National Forest.

Greater Yellowstone Area: Roadless Lands



A summary of roadless lands and designated wilderness in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Unit ¹	Total area ²	Acres of designated wilderness	Other designated acres WSA's	Total inventoried roadless ³	% unit designated & roadless ⁴	Designated Wilderness Areas	Designated Wilderness Study Areas
Custer NF Beartooth RD	475,000	345,599	0	88,000	91%	Absaroka Beartooth 345,599 ac	
Bridger-Teton NF	3,437,000	1,300,325	109,200	1,430,000	82%	Teton 585,238 ac Gros Ventre 287,000 ac Bridger 428,087 ac	Pallisades WSA 76,800 ac Shoal Cr WSA 32,400 ac
Gallatin NF	1,801,000	715,338	155,500	566,000	80%	Absaroka-Beartooth 574,744 ac Lee Metcalf 140,594 ac	Hyalite Porcupine WSA 155,500 ac
Beaverhead NF Madison RD	730,000	107,694	4,474	436,000	75%	Lee Metcalf 107,694 ac	Mt Jefferson WSA 4,474 ac
Shoshone NF	2,437,000	1,378,440	43,757	642,000	85%	Washakie 704,274 ac North Absaroka 350,488 ac Fitzpatrick 198,525 ac Popo Agie 101,870 ac Absaroka-Beartooth 23,283 ac	High Lakes WSA 14,770 ac Dunoir SMU 28,987 ac
Targhee NF	1,820,000	134,166	49,300	786,000	51%	Winegar Hole 10,715 ac Jedediah Smith 123,451 ac	Pallisades WSA 49,300 ac
Caribou NF	776,000	0	0	537,000	69%		
USFS totals	11,476,000	3,981,562	362,231	4,485,000	77%		
Total Roadless ⁵							
Yellowstone NP	2,220,000	0	0	2,176,000	98%		2,033,000 acres recommended for wilderness
Grand Teton NP	310,000	0	0	116,000	37%		116,000 acres recommended for wilderness
JDR Parkway	24,000		0	20,000	83%		
NPS totals	2,554,000	0	0	2,312,000	90%		
National Elk Refuge	24,700	0	0	0	0%		
Red Rock Lakes	45,000	35,000	0		78%	Red Rock 35,000 ac	
FWS totals	69,700	35,000	0	0	50%		
GYA totals	14,099,700	4,016,562	363,321	6,797,000	79%		

¹ Custer NF includes Beartooth Mtn portion of Beartooth RD. Entire acreage for Bridger-Teton, Gallatin, Shoshone, and Targhee NFs. Caribou NF includes eastern portion of forest adjacent to Bridger-Teton and Targhee. Beaverhead NF acres include all of the Madison RD.

² Forest Service acres based on USDA Forest Service Lands area report, Sept. 1998.

³ Inventoried roadless areas are based on forest plans, forest plan revisions in progress where the Forest Service has established an inventory, or other assessments that are completed or adopted by the agency. RARE II information is used if a forest does not have a more recent inventory based on RARE II.

⁴ The percent of roadless lands plus designated lands in relation to total unit acres.

⁵ NPS does not have a formal roadless inventory process; acres identified are estimates for the parks.